

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178122

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EUR/EX:JGARONE(PHONE)

EUR/SOV:WDYESS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, CVIS, UR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MOSCOW-DEPARTMENT VISA TELEX

REF: MOSCOW 8874 AND 8100, STATE 146009

1. DEPARTMENT HAS POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION A MEMORANDUM SENT TO EUR/SOV BY W.W. FRANCIS, O/ISO, CONCERNING THE PROPOSED MOSCOW-DEPARTMENT VISA TELEX. EMBASSY WILL NOTE THAT THIS MEMORANDUM PROPOSES A MOSCOW-PARIS OR MOSCOW-BONN COMMUNICATIONS LINK RATHER THAN THE DIRECT MOSCOW-WASHINGTON, DC LINE PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF STATE REFTEL.

2. AT A RECENT MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES INTERESTED IN ASSISTING THE EMBASSY
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IN IMPROVING EMBASSY-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS THE IDEA

OF POSSIBLY SETTING UP A SYSTEM HAVING A CYRILLIC INPUT IN MOSCOW, TRANSLITERATION FROM CYRILLIC TO LATIN BY A COMPUTER IN WASHINGTON, DC, AND A LATIN OUTPUT IN MOSCOW WAS DISCUSSED.

3. IT APPEARS THAT SUCH A SYSTEM IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, THOUGH IT WOULD TAKE A NUMBER OF MONTHS TO ESTABLISH.

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY EXPLORED.

4. IF SUCH A SYSTEM UTILIZED A MOSCOW-BONN OR MOSCOW-PARIS LINE INSTEAD OF THE MOSCOW-WASHINGTON, DC LINE IT MIGHT COST CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN 70,000 DOLS FIGURE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF STATE REFTEL.

5. EUR/SOV WILL MAKE A FORMAL, WRITTEN PROPOSAL CONCERNING SYSTEM MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 2 AFTER RECEIVING EMBASSY'S REACTIONS. COST OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS HAS NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED. THE PERIOD OF TIME REQUIRED TO SET UP SUCH A SYSTEM HAS ALSO NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED. RUSH

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